Appl. No. 10/539,358
Response to final Office action of 5 April 2010

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure – TC 3621

Page 2 of 8

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

associating, by a provider of a content item, at least one usage right with the content item;

decomposing, by the provider, the usage right into a set of partial rights;

separately digitally signing, by a machine of the provider, each partial right of the set of partial rights, resulting in a corresponding set of signed partial rights; and

providing, by the machine, the content item and the set of signed partial rights to a device of a set of devices at a client system.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one device in the set of devices is able to access and exercise at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights after verification of the signed partial right.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one partial right of the set of signed partial rights associated with the content item comprises one of: a render right, a transfer right, an offer right, a derivative work right, and a utility right.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights can only be exercised a limited number of times.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, including verifying whether the at least one partial right and an authorization of the provider have both not been revoked before exercising the at least one partial right.

Appl. No. 10/539,358
Response to final Office action of 5 April 2010

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure – TC 3621

Page 3 of 8

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, including creating a domain of a plurality of devices of the set of devices that are related to a household or limited group of consumers.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a required protection level of at least one partial right of the set of partial rights is indicated along with the at least one partial right.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a required protection level of at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights is derived implicitly from a type of the at least one partial right.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, including allowing the device to:
    identify a different device,
    sign information that includes at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights and at least one of: an identification of the domain, an identification of the different device, and information about length and validity of the partial right to create a signed information item,
    and transfer this signed information item to the different device.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, including allowing the device to:
    identify a different device,
    sign at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights to create at least one other signed partial right;
    and transfer the at least one other signed partial right to the different device.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the different device is a member of a different domain.

Appl. No. 10/539,358   Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Response to final Office action of 5 April 2010   Expedited Procedure – TC 3621

Page 4 of 8

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, including verifying, by the device, that the different device is at least one of being compliant and being non revoked.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, including revoking or deleting the at least one partial right by the device, after the transfer to the different device.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the usage right comprises an offer right for a specific right, and the method includes:

     requesting the provider to execute the offer right and deliver the specific right to a specified third party, and

     delivering, by the provider, the specific right directly to the specified third party.

15-18 (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, including verifying, by the different device, that the device is at least one of being compliant and being non revoked.

20. (Previously presented) A client system comprising:

     a plurality of devices that are interconnected via a network;

     wherein at least one device includes:

          a memory that is configured to receive a content item and a set of signed partial rights from a server system,

          a digital rights module that is configured to:

               receive a request for access to the content item from an other device on the network,

               identify a partial right of the set of signed partial rights corresponding to the request,

               verify the partial right, and

Appl. No. 10/539,358   Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Response to final Office action of 5 April 2010   Expedited Procedure – TC 3621

Page 5 of 8

grant the request for access based on verification of the partial

right.

21. (Previously presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the digital rights module is configured to revoke or delete the partial right after granting the request for access.

22. (Previously presented) A device comprising:

a memory that is configured to receive a content item and a set of signed partial rights from a server system,

a digital rights module that is configured to:

receive a request for access to the content item from an other device,

identify a partial right of the set of signed partial rights corresponding to the request,

verify the partial right, and

grant the request for access based on verification of the partial right.

23. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~21~~ 22, wherein the digital rights module is configured to revoke or delete the partial right after granting the request for access.

24. (Previously presented) A server system comprising:

a memory that is configured to store a content item and a usage right associated with the content item,

a digital signing element that is configured to decompose the usage right into a set of partial rights and sign each partial right to create a set of signed partial rights, and

a transfer element that is configured to transfer the content item and the set of signed partial rights to a client system.